

## ILRI-SLU capacity building: ILRI outcome story 2007

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Research organizations and universities in several developing countries across Africa and Asia are now utilizing new knowledge and skills from the ILRI-SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) training programme through the animal genetics training resource (AGTR) to re-design their training courses, influence their national livestock policies and develop breeding programs for livestock improvement in their countries.

The project was first planned in the 1998-2000 MTP, and an initial training across targeted regions completed in 2006. The outputs have included application of the animal genetics training resource (AGTR) developed by ILRI and SLU to strengthen and build the capacity of trainers in animal breeding from several developing countries in Asia and Africa. The AGTR resource is available in CD form (availed through ILRI) and a web-based version at:

<http://www.agtr.ilri.cgiar>.

A planning workshop 2007 to discuss the impact of the training within the Africa region, documented feedback on impacts from past course participants, and proposed ways to improve utilization of AnGR in practise. This has led to the development of a proposal for a joint regional graduate training programme for universities in East Africa submitted to the EU-EDULINK for funding.

Since 2000, 128 researchers across central, western and southern Africa, 17 in South Asia and S.E. Asia have been trained by the project team. In 2006 a training program was delivered on request for the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) Animal Agriculture Research Network (A-AARNET) as part of their capacity building activities to implement an EC funded program on management of livestock genetic resources. In 2006, FAO requested the assistance of the project team in developing guidelines for the formulation of breeding policies for sustainable use and development of indigenous livestock, and thereafter facilitate an FAO workshop for 28 partners from East Africa to review and validate its proposed policies (March 2007).

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) has adopted the project approach as a model for a FARA initiative known as 'Building African Scientific and Institutional Capacity (BASIC).

Through the application of the new knowledge, skills and information, several countries have been influenced at different levels:

1. Participants from all countries contributed to their country reports for the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources, and several contributed to negotiations on the resulting Global Plan of Action (FAO, 2007);
2. Tanzania drafted a new breeding policy in 2006, and a new policy on livestock that embraces management and conservation of native livestock resources is being developed;
3. The Malaysia Agricultural Research and Development Institute has sought ILRI's assistance in developing a beef cattle improvement program;
4. Ethiopia is putting the training into practice through the Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute's Dairy research programme;
5. Some universities, such as the University of Nairobi in Kenya, and the University of Bhutan revised their curricula in animal genetics,

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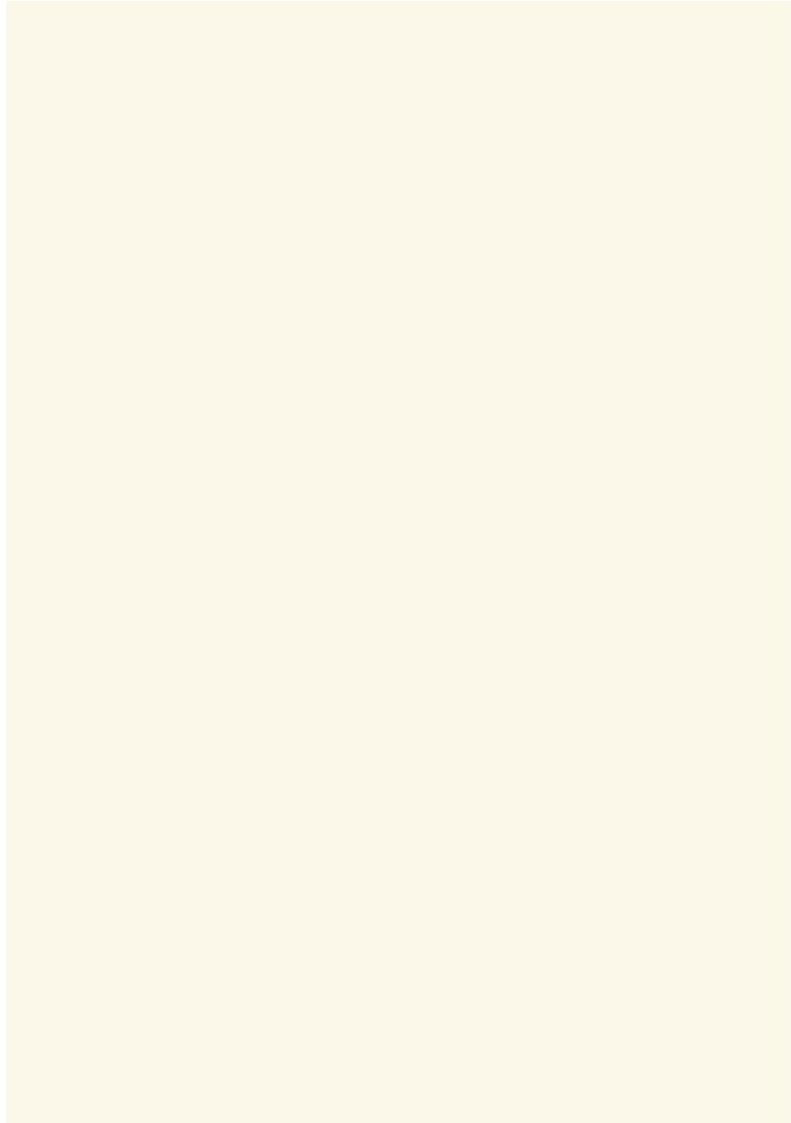
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6. Three virtual regional networks have been established by NARS partners: Afrib Breeders in Africa: [maiser@idpi1.agric.za](mailto:maiser@idpi1.agric.za); SAGDG in South Asia: [sa-genetics@googlegroups.com](mailto:sa-genetics@googlegroups.com) and IAGRA in Southeast Asia.



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